GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3881
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Criminal Activities
Fatepara Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the rise in criminal activities in the name of religion and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check such incidents in future;

(c) whether the Government has issued any advisory to the States to check such incidents and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has urged the States for better co-ordination with the centre and exchange of sensitive information; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e): As per the available information, in 2013 823, in 2014 644 and during Jan-Oct 2015 650 communal incidents, have occurred in the country.

"Public Order" and "Police" are State subjects as per the provisions of the Constitution of India. The responsibility of maintaining law and order, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including religion related offences, rests primarily with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with religion related offences under the extant provisions of laws.

The Central Government assists the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in a variety of ways like sharing of information,

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sending alert messages, sending Central Armed Police Forces including the composite Rapid Action Force, created specially to deal with communal situations, to the concerned State Governments on specific requests. In addition, the Central Government sends advisories prior to various religious festivals/observations and on developments having bearing on communal harmony.

Besides, revised communal harmony guidelines were issued in 2008 to States/UTs which inter alia, lay down standard operating procedures to be put in place to deal with situation arising out of the communal violence. They also delineate preventive and administrative measures to be taken to maintain communal harmony. These guidelines are reiterated while sending advisories.

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